

**REMARKS**

**Summary of the Office Action**

Claims 1-19 are pending in the application.

Claims 1-19 are objected to because of various informalities. Applicant submits that amended claims meet the formalities requirements.

Claims 1-5 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. Applicant submits that amended claims 1 and 19 meet the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Claims 1-6 and 8-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Wootton et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,128,298).

Claims 12-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Wootton et al in view of Maddalozzo, Jr. et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,878,218).

These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claim 7 is directed to allowable subject matter, and that claim 19 would be allowable upon overcoming the objection and rejection set forth in the Office Action.

**Discussion of the Prior Art Rejections**

In rejecting claim 1, the Examiner cites portions of Wootton et al as allegedly teaching each of the claimed features. Applicant submits, however, that Wootton does not teach at least the feature of:

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an address converting portion for converting the external port values into corresponding private IP addresses and internal port values when a network node of one private network accesses another network node of another private network by using the external port values of another network node of another private network.

The Examiner cites column 5, lines 36-55 of Wootton et al as teaching this feature. This section of Wootton et al, however, merely teaches a translation table to facilitate packet exchange between a private network 10 and a public network 14. There is no teaching here or elsewhere in Wootton et al relating to converting external port values into corresponding private IP addresses and internal port values when a network node of one private network accesses another network node of another private network by using external port values of another network node of another private network. Applicant submits that claim 1 is not anticipated by Wootton et al at least because Wootton et al fails to disclose the above-discussed feature.

Applicant submits that claims 2-5 are allowable at least because of their dependence from claim 1.

Regarding claim 6, Applicant submits that Wootton et al does not disclose “exchanging the assigned external port value of a certain network node of a certain private network with the assigned external port value of another node of another private network, and storing the exchange external port value”. Applicant also submits that Wootton et al does not disclose “converting the exchange external port value into a corresponding private IP address and internal port value, enabling the certain network node of the certain private network to access another

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network node of another private network by using the external port value of another node of another private network.”

Claims 8-11 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependence from claim 6.

Regarding claim 12, the Examiner states that feature i is disclosed by Wootton et al and features ii-iv are disclosed by Maddalozzo et al, and that it would have been obvious to modify the communication method of Wootton et al to incorporate the cited features of Maddalozzo et al because doing so would provide more efficiency for the system since the user can easily link to the node of the private network via the displayed webpage and icons. Applicant submits that there is no teaching or suggestion in either of the applied references for combining features ii-iv with feature i, and that doing so would destroy the principle of operation upon which Wootton et al is based.

In more detail, Wootton et al is concerned with the security of private nodes in a private network (see the last sentence of the Abstract). Wootton et al teaches: “the IP filter 12 accepts no connection requests from the public network 14. All communications between private nodes 18 and public nodes 20 are initiated by the private nodes 18.” (column 5, lines 30-43). Thus, Wootton et al teaches away from steps II-IV of claim 12 of:

- ii) generating a webpage displaying node information of a private network, and linking the webpage to a global IP address;

- iii) accessing the webpage and the node information of the private network; and

- iv) accessing one of the network nodes of the private network based on the node information obtained in step iii).

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Claims 13-18 are patentable over the applied references at least by virtue of their dependence from claim 12.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

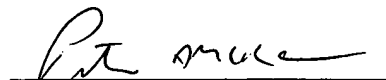
Respectfully submitted,

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